

coupling electrical leads to the conductive material at opposite sides of the trench and applying an electric field across the trench via the electrical leads; and using the electric field for alignment, heating the substrate while introducing molecules to the catalyst material and growing an aligned carbon nanotube extending from the catalyst material and across the trench, the carbon nanotube extending in a direction aligned with the electric field.

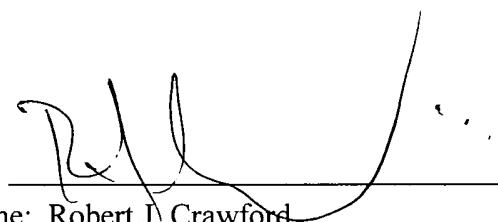
Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment includes changes supported in the Specification as filed and is not being made either to overcome any prior art or for reasons of patentability, as no prior art has been cited by the PTO. Rather, the amendment is being made for the purpose of improving on the overall characterization of the claimed invention.

Please charge Deposit Account number 50-0996 (STFD.021C1/S98-049A-Con) in the amount of \$42 for additional independent claim 38, as commensurate with 37 C.F.R. §1.16(b) (small entity fee).

A favorable reply is earnestly requested.

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